



City of Santa Barbara

Summary of Water Efficiency Requirements in the California Plumbing and Green Building Codes

1. Water Efficiency Requirements in the California Plumbing Code

As of July 1, 2011, the California Plumbing code requires installations of 1.28 gallons per flush (gpf) toilets and .5 gpf urinals for all properties where sleeping occurs, i.e. R occupancy.

Other projects are not affected unless subject to the California Green Building Code (CALGreen) requirements. (see below)

2. Water Efficiency Elements of the CALGreen Code

The 2010 CALGreen Code, which took effect on January 1, 2010, applies only to new buildings and requires a 20 percent reduction in indoor water use from a baseline cited in the CALGreen code book.

➤ Residential Mandatory Measures: Chapter 4

Water Efficiency: Div. 4.3

- Requires a 20% reduction in indoor water use. This is verified through water use baseline tables, fixture flow rates, and standards for plumbing fixtures and fittings.
- Automatic irrigation systems utilizing weather and/or soil moisture based irrigation controllers. This is already a requirement for any projects for the City of Santa Barbara going through Design Review, per the Landscape Design Standards for Water Conservation.

Building Maintenance and Operation

- At time of building final inspection, operation and maintenance manual is required for the building. For the water conservation element of the manual, it shall include:
 - Operation and maintenance instructions for appliances-roof and yard drainage-space conditioning systems-landscape irrigation systems-water reuse systems.
 - Local utility, water and waste recovery providers on resource and recycling programs
 - Instruction about water conserving landscape and irrigation design and irrigation controller.
 - Direction that manual is to remain with the building.

➤ Nonresidential Mandatory Measures: Chapter 5

Water Efficiency:

- For buildings over 50,000 sq. ft., provide separate water meters depending upon occupancy and consumption greater than 100 gal/day.
- 20% reduction in indoor water use. This is verified through water use baseline tables, fixture flow rates, and standards for plumbing fixtures and fittings.
- Reduce wastewater by 20% via water conserving fixtures or utilizing non-potable systems such as graywater, rainwater, recycled, etc.
- Develop water budget for landscape that conforms to local ordinance or to the CA Department of Water Resources Model Water Efficient Landscape ordinance.
- Automatic irrigation systems utilizing weather and/or soil moisture based irrigation controllers. This is already a requirement for any projects for the City of Santa Barbara going through Design Review, per the Landscape Design Standards for Water Conservation.

NOTE: On Jan. 1, 2014, state law, per AB715, will require 1.28 gpf toilets and .5 gpf urinals for all existing and new buildings.